

March 2024

PARISH MAGAZINE



Holy Week and **Easter**

St. Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry
and Christchurch, Rhydygroesau **50p**

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**THE PARISH CHURCHES OF ST OSWALD, KING & MARTYR, OSWESTRY,
AND CHRISTCHURCH, RHYDYCROESAU**

Vicar of Oswestry & Rector of Rhydycroesau

The Reverend Harvey Lloyd Gibbons, M.A.
St Oswald's Vicarage, Penylan Lane, Oswestry, SY11 2AJ. Tel: 01691 653467
email: revdharvey@gmail.com

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Tel: 07785 749 951 email: stoswald.curate@gmail.com

Associate Minister

The Reverend Jassica Castillo-Burley
Tel: 07809 414747 email: stoswald.minister@gmail.com

Licensed Readers

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Reader Emeritus

Mr Bill Bowen, BEM

Tel: 654571

Churchwardens

S Oswald's: Miss June Williams

Tel: 652544

Mr Alan Neale

Tel: 661613

Mrs Muriel Jones

Tel: 653598

Mr John Abram MBE TD

Tel: 653316

Christchurch: Mrs Elizabeth Stanley

Tel: 676450

Rosemary Davies

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S Oswald's: Mr M Donkin e-mail: michaeldonkin44@gmail.com Tel: 828130

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S Oswald's: Church Street, Oswestry SY11 2SY.

Tel: 652861

Parish Administrator: Ms Carron Boulton

email: stoswald.office@gmail.com

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The space downstairs

For Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture. The programme for the year was very extensive, including art, music, dance, theatre, sport, and almost anything else you can think of, attracting great crowds and great publicity. But one of the less publicised events was an exhibition of the work of the Swiss architect Le Corbusier - the man who introduced the concept of streets in the sky with green spaces in between and designed whole new towns and cities on that basis. The exhibition was noteworthy, not just for what it contained, but also for where it was held - in the crypt of Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

For the Metropolitan Cathedral has beneath it a huge space. Some of it now serves as a car park for the modern cathedral above. But the rest of it is where the exhibition was held - a massive crypt designed to serve the cathedral which was originally intended for the site but which was never built - a cathedral which would have been three times the size of the present one.

In some respects the layout of the Metropolitan Cathedral is very similar to what many archaeologists now believe the layout of the Temple in Jerusalem to have been like at the time when Jesus lived. At ground level there was the Temple itself with all its courts.

But underneath it there could well have been a huge basement or vault or storage area which would undoubtedly have been used for parking cars if they had had them in those days – and some archaeologists now believe that it was in this area that the money-changers and the sellers of animals and doves set up their stalls.

Picture it in your mind: a dark vast space with little natural light and perhaps only a few oil lamps burning here and there to relieve the gloom. It must have been noisy, smelly, airless and crowded. And it was into this space that one day a stranger from the country came and made a bit of a fuss, pushing over a few stalls, letting loose some of the birds from their cages, lashing out with a whip and shouting angry words about his Father's house being turned into a market.

In the eyes of the traders and their customers, there was nothing particularly wicked going on in that great space downstairs. The moneychangers and the sellers of livestock were simply doing their job. We have to be careful not to apply the ideas of our own age to an activity

that was typical of its place and time. Those of us who are used to modern air-conditioned shopping malls would no doubt find the whole experience noisy and smelly and distasteful. But the idea that silence and solemnity are necessary for reverence is still a new idea to a large section of the human race. And, what's more, the traders had to be there because they were part of the Temple system. To show due reverence on your visit to the Temple, you had to give money in the right currency, so you had to empty your pockets of foreign coins. You had to have birds and animals to sacrifice. So the traders were essential. But Jesus accused them of turning the place into a market, and a market was necessary for the system. So what was wrong with that?

Well, what was wrong was that the true purpose of the Temple had been to make God accessible, so that those who yearned for God could find God. That is why the psalms are full of expressions of longing to come to Jerusalem, as in Psalm 84:

*My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
Blessed are those who dwell in your house!*

But, for many, the Temple had become something else - a place with complicated and vigorously enforced conditions of entry, and those conditions had generated a whole cottage industry of money-changers and livestock merchants to ensure you were correctly equipped before you went in. So being religious meant having to be part of a system which provided profit for the few but which for the many simply got in the way.

It's easy to make comparisons with the cost of living crisis, and to draw conclusions about a society which worships at the temples of consumption and provides massive capital gains and unearned income for the few while the many feel isolated and abandoned on a treadmill of debt. And while banks and financial institutions are bailed out and supported, the rights of the poor to a home or to education or to medical care fade into the background, and the sustainability and well-being of the planet are pushed lower down the agenda.

But we cannot escape from this system. We all depend on it, for our homes, for our mortgages, for our salaries, for our pensions. We can't get into the Temple unless we go through the basement. We are dependent on a system from which the world seems unable to escape: a system which seems alien to the values of love, community, equality and justice.

But for Jesus, the real issue was where in all this activity people could find God. He was totally unconcerned about the purity of the people who came to the Temple or of the coins they carried or of the creatures they handed in for sacrifice. He was totally unconcerned about the benefit to the merchants of the trading system which they were part of. Instead, he went out of the Temple and out of the city to a degrading death at the top of a hill, the local rubbish tip, where he was stripped and nailed to a cross for everyone to see. And in doing so, he stepped outside the system. For us, the Temple with all its systems is replaced by the crucified Christ.

Perhaps we have been too busy to notice that Jesus has moved outside, and we stick with the merchants and the people we can do business with and brush aside the significance of the cross. But as we move towards Holy Week and Easter, we are drawn instead to the true place where God can be found, Jesus displayed on the cross, the embodiment of human suffering, God's gift shown in the depth of human pain, what St. Paul describes as *the foolishness of God which is wiser than human wisdom*.

So just for a while the basement can be emptied, and we can focus our minds instead on those un-business-like things that you cannot put a price on and that won't be made subservient to any system - those things such as love, and forgiveness, and thanksgiving, and healing, and reconciliation, and restoration, and the precious gift of God. And when the basement fills up again, as it will, let us pray that, amid all the noise and the clamour, we shall take into it something of what we have experienced at the foot of the cross.

Brian

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN
SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 9.30AM—4.00PM

As many people as possible are needed to give St Oswald's its annual spring clean in time for Easter. Please come along with brushes, mops, vacuum cleaners, etc. etc. so we can clean those places which are not done on a weekly basis. We welcome newcomers to St Oswald's, as well as our regular helpers, to assist with this annual task.



A list of areas to be cleaned will be available in church and it would be appreciated if you could please indicate which area you have cleaned so that cleaning isn't duplicated.

Natasha Bell and Muriel Jones

Rothera's Retreat

Our lovely coastal house is now available for breaks all year round.



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Lent Lunch with Reflective Liturgy

**Noon on 11 March (Monday) 2024
in St Oswald's Parish Centre**



Come along to have a simple meal with us
and pray for the needs of our community.

The donation will be in support of OsNosh.

Please sign up for your attendance
or email Rev. Jassica (stoswald.minister@gmail.com)

SATURDAY PRAYER BREAKFAST

We have been holding Prayer Breakfasts four to six times a year on a Saturday morning for more than 10 years, and those who come continue to value the time of reflection and quiet prayer for ourselves and our own discipleship, for our community and for the wider world. The fellowship and conversation are always enjoyable and the breakfast sets you up nicely for the morning. But perhaps the start is just a little too early for some and so we are intending to try doing things differently for our next breakfast, on March 23rd. The start time will be later, at 8:30 am, and breakfast will be available as you arrive. After 40-45 minutes we will move from our breakfast tables and gather for 30 minutes of prayer, concluding by 9.45 am.

If you are a 'regular' let us know what you think of the new arrangement. If you have never been before, might that extra half-hour in bed be enough to entice you out to join us? We hope so.

Jan, Elaine and Lindsay

St Oswald's Prayer Breakfast

An initiative to help nurture our spiritual growth, foster Christian discipleship and to pray for our town and its people.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 23

8:30 am in the Parish Centre



A light breakfast of fruit juice, cereal, toast and croissants (no charge) will be available from 8:30 am, followed by 30-minutes of prayer and reflection

Breakfasts take place throughout the year on the last Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November

2024 Holy Week in St Oswald's Church Oswestry



**Come and worship with us
at this most solemn and joyful season of the Christian Year**

Palm Sunday (24 March)

10: 30 am Palm Sunday Liturgy

6: 30 pm Performance of *Messiah, Part 2 & 3* (Handel)

Monday and Tuesday on Holy Week (25-26 March)

9 am Morning Prayer in St Catherine's Chapel

7 pm Night Prayer in Lady's Chapel

Wednesday on Holy Week (27 March)

9 am Morning Prayer in St Catherine's Chapel

7 pm Stations of the Cross
followed by Night Prayer in Lady's Chapel

Maundy Thursday (28 March)

10: 30 am BCP Holy Communion

7 pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy
followed by the Stripping of the Sanctuary and the Watch

Good Friday (29 March)

12 noon Last Three Hours
ended with Good Friday Liturgy (at 2 pm)

Holy Saturday (30 March)

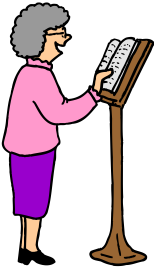
7 pm Great Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Sunday (31 March)

8 am Easter Holy Communion

10:30 am Easter Sunday Eucharist and Holy Baptism

6: 30 pm Festal Evensong for Easter Sunday



'MARK, MY WORDS' – COME AND HEAR THE MESSAGE

On Holy Saturday (March 30th) we will be reading the complete Gospel of Mark aloud. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear the gospel as it was intended – as a story.

Revd Simon Foster, who leads the Mission team for Lichfield Diocese, says this about the experience of hearing a whole gospel: 'It can be transformative. It's very different from hearing it week by week, or reading it alone to yourself. We notice the power and awe of the overall story. We notice how the individual stories are framed in a much bigger story. We understand how the parts we often hear fall into a particular sequence. We feel the ebb and flow of the story, the shifts of gear, and we imagine the disciples' experience much more easily.'

Mark was the first of the gospel writers and he wants to get the story out there. His gospel moves at a breathless pace and it will take us less than 90 minutes to read. We will be reading from 'The Message' Bible, which tries to capture the conversational tone and idiomatic expression in which Mark would originally have written. A story can lose its impact when it becomes familiar – hearing it from 'The Message' can engage and intrigue us anew.

We will start at 2:00 pm and continue with no break. Come, sit in the quiet of the church (maybe bring a cushion) and listen. Stay for the whole time if you can, or arrive and leave as you like. There will be self-serve tea and coffee available.

If you would like to take part in the reading yourself and want to know more about how it will be organised, please be in touch by email with Elaine Leek: leek1@btinternet.com.

PEW SHEET

Please note that as from the beginning of March Pew Sheets will no longer appear in your Inbox but can be viewed on the Church Website - <https://www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk/news/>

Printed sheets will, as usual, be in church on a Sunday.

Ann Sagar

Poignant Words to ponder on and pray about:

I AM A CHRISTIAN

When I say that "I am a Christian",
I am not shouting that "I am clean living", I'm whispering:
"I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven"

When I say "I am a Christian", I don't speak
of this with pride. I'm confessing that I
stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian", I'm not trying
to be strong. I'm professing that I am
weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say "I am a Christian", I'm not
bragging of success. I'm admitting I have
failed and need God to clean up my mess.

When I say "I am a Christian", I'm not claiming
to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but
God believes I am worth it.

When I say "I am a Christian", I still feel the
sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so
I call upon His name.

When I say "I am a Christian", I am not holier
than thou, I'm just a simple sinner who received
God's grace...Somehow!

The words were given to me, by my Curate Father Darren Bell in
December 2020.

Father Phil



PRAYER DIARY

Following my article in the September 2023 magazine, a new
Prayer Diary has now been printed and, if you would like a copy, it
is available to collect from the table at the back of the church.

Carol Burke

ST OSWALD'S LADIES' GROUP

June opened the meeting with a prayer and a moment of silence. We then said the proper Lord's Prayer followed by The Grace. June received apologies for absence and then read out notices of forthcoming events and asked anyone to bring Palm crosses to church for Ash Wednesday. She also said that the Ladies' Group would be providing the Lent Lunch for 11th March and asked for help. Help is also needed on 9th March for posies for Mothering Sunday. Please contact June or Ann Sagar.

Unfortunately, Glenda will be away for our AGM at our next meeting and therefore gave out the accounts for the past financial year in advance.



June then welcomed Elaine Leek, one of our members to speak on volunteering at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital, affectionately known as “the Orthopaedic” which has a worldwide reputation and started at Baschurch at the beginning of the twentieth century. Elaine belongs to the League of Friends which was started in 1961 to provide equipment, amenities and help, having raised over £20 million since 1961. The current number of Friends is over 150.

Elaine then described her work with the Spinal Unit. Patients are usually in for a long time and Elaine is part of a roster of Friends who take a drinks and goods trolley round, which can take about one and a half hours. It is not just giving drinks but helping them with the receptacle, usually with a straw – even to dunking their biscuits – she described the difficulties of dunking a custard cream! She also described the difficulties of helping patients with their meals. The food at the hospital is excellent and the Chef was runner up in the NHS Show of the Year. She also described the new beautiful Horatio's Garden for spinal patients.

Elaine gave a light but thought provoking talk and made us realise how lucky we are to have such a hospital on our doorstep. Well done, Elaine, for volunteering and if anyone would like to volunteer either with the Friends or with the Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre then forms are on the website. June thanked Elaine for her talk which was very much enjoyed.

Our next meeting will our Annual General Meeting on Monday 4th March at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre. Father Phil will preside at an informal Eucharist prior to the meeting and give a talk on 'work in his previous parishes'.

Ann Boulton

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – 249.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SALE OF KNEELING PLACES

This month we are returning to a topic which has featured in previous editions of the parish magazine, in November and December 2019, and most recently in May 2022. These articles were based on details contained in our Tudor and Stuart churchwardens' accounts, and in surviving deeds and documents setting out in precise detail the sale, or the transfer, of pews ('kneeling places') within the church.

This week, I was searching through my notebooks from the years 2005 to 2007, looking for my notes on another church-related matter, intending to use those notes to prepare this month's article. When I found the notes, they were less detailed than I had hoped, so I have had to shelve that topic until later this year, once I have been able to pay another visit to the record office in question, and take better notes! However, whilst looking through these notebooks, I came across other notes, taken at Shropshire Archives in June 2007, which have provided me with material for the present article.

The document concerned is a deed¹, dated October 23rd in the fourteenth year of the reign of Charles II, 1662 – his regnal years being counted from the death of Charles I in 1649, not from the date in 1660 that he was proclaimed king. The document records the sale, for four pounds, by Robert Kyffin of Sweeney, described as gentleman, to Nicholas Davies of Maesbury, another gentleman, of all that 'form, seat, or kneeling place' located in the 'upper part' of the middle aisle of the nave of the church. The kneeling place was five feet 'or thereabouts' in length, measured from the pulpit to 'a certain way or passage from the middle aisle to the middle or high chancel', and four feet 'or thereabouts' in breadth, lying between the kneeling places of John Lloyd, gentleman, and the said Nicholas Davies. By acquiring the kneeling place next to his own, Nicholas Davies was presumably seeking to enlarge the space available to him and his family – as the dimensions set out in this deed, roughly five feet by four feet, were not in themselves especially generous!

The deed includes a further clause whereby the vendor, Robert Kyffin, reserved to himself 'a sitting place within the seat or pew 'for the hearing of divine service for and during the term of my natural life', the pew also to serve as 'a burying place for myself at the time of my decease'. Checking the parish registers, I see that Robert Kyffin lived for a further thirteen

¹Shropshire Archives, 6000/1148

years: his burial is recorded in the register for January 12th 1675 (modern day 1676), though records do not tell us exactly where he was buried. Nicholas Davies died ten years later, with his burial recorded on April 3rd 1686.

Other surviving deeds provide further evidence of parishioners, with the necessary means, acquiring more than one kneeling place within the church. For example, the records of Aston Hall, preserved at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, include at least five deeds through which Richard Lloyd of Aston, gent., acquired seats in the church². In this case, it seems that the purchaser was not seeking to create a single large 'block' of seating – the deeds suggest that the seats were located in different parts of the church, in the middle, and on both the north and south sides – and he may simply have been acquiring sufficient seats to accommodate his own household and visitors to Aston.

In 1576, Richard Lloyd acquired from the widow Margaret ferch Roger 'late of London' a seat in the south part of the church 'between the aisle leading towards the chancel of St Michael and the chancel of St James'. In May 1579 he purchased from Thomas ap Richard, 'citizen and baker of London', and his wife Katherine a property in Willow Street together with 'benches, seats and places in the parish church of Oswestry pertaining to that property'. In July 1579, for a payment of six shillings and eightpence made to the Rev. John Price, vicar, he was granted 'a parcel of ground for making a seat in the middle of the church' near to the chancel. Five years later, he acquired from Robert ap Richard of Middleton 'a seat and kneeling place ... against the chancel there called our Ladyes Chauncell and adjoining the seat of Richard ap John ap Thomas'. Finally, in 1592, he bought a kneeling place 'in the chancel of St James the Apostle'. This deed notes that the seat had formerly belonged to Richard ap Meredith ap Howell of Glascoed, esquire, from whom it had passed to his son Richard Kyffin, esq., and in turn to his son John Kyffin, the present vendor.

Finally, let's take a look at records relating to the mercer Hugh Moris who, in 1600, acquired from 'Margaret Prondle, otherwise Margaret Williams, otherwise Jones, of the town of Oswestrey, widow' a kneeling place 'next to the pulpit ...and adjacent to the chancel, extending in length from the chancel to the path by the holy water stoup leading to the porch called Muxton's porch'. And five years later, he purchased from John Blodwell another pew 'next to the chancel of the Blessed Virgin Mary and adjacent

²Aston Hall 1042, 984, 1755, 2538, and 1971

to the kneeling place of Richard Williams and the burial place of the Rev. John Price, who had died in 1582³.

By analysing what these deeds can tell us, and comparing those details with information contained in many other deeds, and with other details on the pre-Civil War church, we may in time be able to determine, with at least some degree of certainty, the layout of our parish church at this time. For instance, the will of the Rev. John Price survives, at Aberystwyth, and tells us the location of his burial place: 'in a place called lately St Katherine's where my antecessors and parents were lately buried'.

³ National Library of Wales, Peniarth NB103, NB123

John Pryce-Jones

MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our February meeting, though depleted in numbers due mainly to the weather, started with our Diocesan 'Wave of Prayer', our prayer link to other parts of the world.

We then displayed items which we had made recently or in the past. This proved very interesting and ranged from a variety of knitted items, a painting, a crazy patchwork cushion, a 1960's wedding dress and a photograph of a stained glass window which was installed in the member's house. We did not know we had such God given talent among us!

The next meeting is on March 14th at 2.15 in the Parish Centre, all welcome.

Pam Musson
(656212)

SAMARITANS

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2024 Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Christchurch Rhydygroesau



Communion for Ash Wednesday

with Imposition of Ashes

9:30 am on 14 February (Wednesday)

Lent Lunch

with Campaign for Church Action on Poverty

12:30 pm on 5 March (Tuesday)

hosted by Rosemary Davies (SY10 7HJ)*

Sung Eucharist for Palm Sunday

(combined with St Oswald's Church Oswestry)

10:30 am on 24 March

Good Friday Reflective Service

7 pm on 29 March (Friday)

Holy Communion for Easter Sunday

9:30 am on 31 March (Sunday)

* Book with the churchwardens: Elizabeth (01691 676450),
Rose (07813757498) or Rev. Yin-An (stoswald.curate@gmail.com)

MUSIC NOTES – MARCH 2024

ST. OSWALD'S SINGERS

I am writing this in half term week and with the Choir on holiday the service on 11th February was led by the St. Oswald's Singers directed by Margaret Smith. This group is an informal ensemble of people who like to sing but don't have the sight-reading skills or can't make the commitment needed for the Choir. The group has settled in well and its presence during the Choir absences is very much appreciated. We could do with a few more people and if you feel that you would enjoy singing the occasional service, please have a word with me or Margaret. Everyone will be most welcome.

150TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL SEASON

Last month I promised more details of the music events for the Festival to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Church. They fall into two groups; a number of individual concerts and a summer series of 4 concerts entitled 'Music for a Summer's Evening'

The festival season will open with a concert on Saturday 6th July given by our Chamber Choir '**The Scholars and Gentlemen**'. I have been asked if I can repeat the programme '**Masters of the King's Musick**' that we did some years ago. This is a musical history of the golden age of the Chapel Royal (1500 – 1700) and is a story illustrated by the music composed by the Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal during this period. It is both an interesting and amusing evening and if you haven't heard it is highly recommended and if you have heard it will certainly be well worth repeating the experience.

The Summer series which will include light refreshments, begins on Saturday 20th July with a concert of music for **Organ and Flamenco Guitar** given by **Colin Porter and Ignazio Lusarde Monteverdi**. Colin and Ignazio gave the Veronica Donkin Memorial Recital last year to great acclaim and are making a welcome return as part of our festival.

This is followed on Saturday 3rd August by an evening of **Light Classical and Modern Piano Music** featuring **Haydn Jones**. Haydn is a regular worshipper at St. Oswald's and a renowned teacher of piano in the town. He will also feature the work of some of his pupils in the concert.

Saturday 17th August will feature **Samantha Lewis, Mezzo-soprano**. Sam started her singing as a chorister in St. Oswald's Choir and having

attained a Masters Degree from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is now making a name for herself in the world of opera.

The Summer series ends on Saturday 31st August with '**Pastime with Good Company**' - an evening of Madrigals and Elizabethan Song sung by the **Scholars and Gentlemen**.

On Saturday 5th October there will be a concert by the **Penybontfawr Male Voice Choir** and the Festival will end with **St. Oswald's Choir** singing on Saturday 12th October '**What We Really Do**' - a programme of music that we sing in church but which is also worthy of the concert hall. If anyone would like to hear a particular piece in this concert you can sponsor it for a donation to the Music at St. Oswald's. Just have a word with me.

- The ticket price for each concert will be £10. However,
- A Season Ticket for the 4 Summer Series concerts can be had for £30 (a 25% reduction.)
- A Season Ticket for all 7 concerts can be had for £50 (that's a 28% reduction)

Booking will open after Easter but you can reserve places right now by contacting me on michaeldonkin44@gmail.com or by telephoning 07779 917724 or talk to me after any service at St. Oswald's

Mike Donkin
Director of Music

COFFEE ROTA FOR MARCH

3	Jane Mayne	Jean Lawrence	Chris Abram
10	Jane Wilkinson	Val Hamer	Carol Burke
17	Judi Neale	Babs Bone	Elaine Leek
24	Hazel Pryce	Dilys Lloyd	Jane Mayne
31	Val Hamer	Glenda Evison	KayCole/Fiona Pearson



Services at S. Oswald's

March 3	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>Lent 3</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
	18:30	Choral Evensong
March 10	10:30	Parish Eucharist <i>with the giving of flowers</i>
<i>Lent 4</i>	17:30	Question Time
<i>Mothering Sunday</i>		
March 17	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>Lent 5</i>	10:30	Parish Eucharist with sung setting
<i>Passion Sunday</i>	18:30	Choral Evensong
March 24	10:30	Blessing of Palms, Procession & Eucharist
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	18:30	Performance of Messiah, Parts 2 & 3
March 31	08:00	Holy Communion
<i>Easter Day</i>	10:30	Festival Eucharist and Holy Baptism
	18:30	Festal Evensong

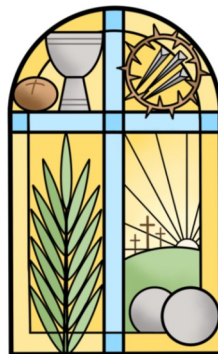
Every Thursday 10.30 Holy Communion (BCP)

MORNING PRAYER is said in the Chapel of St Catherine at 9am on Mondays and Tuesdays. It is streamed online through the church Facebook page at 9 o'clock on Wednesday to Friday. Sunday worship is on the YouTube page.

Enquires for Baptisms, Marriages etc should be made to the Parish Office. Please email the Parish Administrator (stoswald.office@gmail.com) for an appointment.

Services at Rhydygroesau

<i>First Sunday</i>	09:30	All Age Service
March 3		
<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
<i>March 10</i>		
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	10:30	Joint Service
March 24		at St Oswald's
<i>Good Friday</i>	19:00	Reflective Service
March 29		
<i>Easter Day</i>	09:30	Holy Communion
March 31		



HOLY WEEK SERVICES 25th—31st March

Monday	09:00	Morning Prayer – St Catherine’s Chapel
	19:00	Night Prayer – Lady Chapel
Tuesday	09:00	Morning Prayer – St Catherine’s Chapel
	19:00	Night Prayer – Lady Chapel
Wednesday	09:00	Morning Prayer – St Catherine’s Chapel
	19:00	Stations of the Cross followed by Night Prayer – Lady Chapel
Maundy Thursday:	10:30	Eucharist
	11:00	Chrism Eucharist at Lichfield Cathedral
	19:00	Eucharist of the Last Supper with Vigil
Good Friday	12:00	Three Hours
	14:00	Good Friday Liturgy
Easter Eve	19:00	Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr Music List - March 2024

Sunday 3rd March

Lent 3

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Shephard - Addington Service
Kyries: Plainsong - Deus Genitor Alme
Anthem: Locus iste - Bruckner

18.30 Choral Evensong

Introit: O Lord, increase our faith - Loosemore
Canticles: Hylton Stewart in C
Responses: Ebdon
Anthem: Haste thee O God - Batten

Sunday 10th March

Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Metrical to Hymn Tunes
Anthem: Ave Maria - Lindley

17.30 Question Time

(No Choir)

Sunday 17th March

Passion Sunday

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Setting: Mathias - Communion Service in C
Kyries: Plainsong - Lux et Origo
Anthem: Salvator mundi - Tallis

/Cont. overleaf

Music List Cont.**Sunday 17th March Cont.****Passion Sunday**18.30 Choral Evensong*(Choral Scholars & Adults)*

Introit: How still and peaceful - Lucy Whitehead
Canticles: Short Service in the Dorian Mode - Tallis
Responses: Tallis
Anthem: O Domine Jesu Christe - Guerrero

Sunday 24th March**Palm Sunday**10.30 Blessing of Palms and Parish Eucharist

Introit: Hosanna to the Son of David - Weelkes
Setting: Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas
Kyries: Plainsong - Orbis Factor
Anthem: Solus ad victimam - Leighton

18.30 Performance of Messiah, Parts 2 & 3**Thursday 28th March****Maundy Thursday**19.00 Solemn Eucharist of the Last Supper*(Choral Scholars & Adults)*

Setting: Darke in E
Anthems: Wash me thoroughly - S. S. Wesley
Ave verum - Byrd

Friday 25th March**Good Friday**12.00 Good Friday Three Hours Devotions

14.00 The final hour will comprise the Good Friday Liturgies sung by the

Anthems: Popule meus - Victoria [Choir]
Crucifixus a 8 - Lotti
Crux Fidelis - King John of Portugal

Saturday 30th March**Holy Saturday**19.00 The Easter Vigil*(Choral Scholars & Adults)*

Anthems: Exultet - Plainsong
Dum transisset Sabbatum - Taverner

Sunday 31st March**Easter**10.30 Festival Eucharist

Setting: Archer - St Albans Service
Anthem: Hallelujah (from Messiah) - Handel

18.30 Festal Evensong

Introit: Regina Caeli - Soriano
Canticles: Magnificat Octavi Toni - Anerio
Nunc Dimittis a 8 - Palestrina
Responses: Reading
Anthem: Alleluia, Haec Dies -- Donati

Evening Service Series

Women in God's Salvation 2

St Oswald's Church Oswestry

Have questions about the Bible and Christian Faith?
Come along to our evening services.

3 March We Ponder in Choral Evensong

18:30 **Midwives in Egypt**

10 March We Think in Question Time

17:30 **Mothers Like Pharaoh's Daughter?**

17 March We Ponder in Choral Evensong

18:30 **Zipporah**

24 March Palm Sunday's Musical Reflection

18:30 **Handel's Messiah**

31 March **Festal Evensong**

18:30 **on Easter Sunday**

7 April We Ponder in Choral Evensong

18:30 **Mary, the Mother of God**

14 April We Think in Question Time

17:30 **What did Jesus Learn from the Samaritan Woman?**

21 April We Ponder in Choral Evensong

18:30 **Mary Magdalene**

28 April We Pray in Reflective Space

18:30 **The Women Who Had Been Bleeding**

5 May We Ponder in Choral Evensong

18:30 **Mary and Martha**

Follow us on Facebook at 'St Oswalds Parish Church Oswestry'

CALENDAR FOR MARCH



Friday 1	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Saturday 2	0900	Orthodox Divine Liturgy
Monday 4	1000	Clergy Eucharist and Meeting
	1430	Ladies Group AGM—Parish Centre
Tuesday 5	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
	1230	Christchurch, Rhydygroesau Lent Lunch Hosted by Rosemary Davies—see page 19
	1900	Lent Course at Lindsay Clarke's House
Wednesday 6	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1930	Reflection Group in Parish Centre
Thursday 7	1400	Lent Course in Parish Centre with Jassica
Friday 8	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Monday 11	1200	Lent Lunch with Reflective Liturgy—Parish Centre
Tuesday 12	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
	1900	Lent Course at Lindsay Clarke's House
Wednesday 13	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1930	Reflection Group in Parish Centre
Thursday 14	1400	Lent Course in Church with Jassica
	1415	Mothers' Union Fellowship Group—Parish Centre
Friday 15	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
Monday 18	1930—	2100 PCC Meeting
Tuesday 19	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
	1900	Lent Course at Lindsay Clarke's House
Wednesday 20	0830—	0940 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1330—	1530 Morda School Easter Service
	1930	Reflection Group in Parish Centre
Thursday 21	1400	Lent Course in Parish Centre with Jassica
Friday 22	0900—	1030 Oswestry School End of Term Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1100—	1615 Moreton Hall Celebration Assembly
Saturday 23	0830	Prayer Breakfast—Parish Centre
	0930—	1600 Church Spring Clean
Tuesday 26	1030—	1230 Place of Welcome - Parish Centre
	1900	Lent Course at Lindsay Clarke's House
Wednesday 27	0830—	0945 Oswestry School Assembly
	1000	Under 5's Playgroup—Parish Centre
	1930	Reflection Group in Parish Centre
Saturday 30	1400	'Mark my Words' - Come and Hear the Message see page 13

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‘Following Christ in the footsteps of St Chad’

March begins with the celebration of the lives of two saints; on 1st March we have St David, (or Dewi Sant) C6th Bishop of Wales and on 2nd March we have St Chad, C7th first Bishop of Lichfield and our patron. These days punctuate Lent, giving us an opportunity to pause and reflect on how the holy people of old patterned their lives on that of Christ. We might consider how we may learn from their ancient wisdom at this point on our Lenten journey. It's a journey which has a distinctive shape, beginning with a purposeful focus on discipline, fasting and intentional holiness; it moves inexorably toward the intensity of its conclusion in Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the Cross.

Yet during these middle weeks of Lent we find ourselves with Jesus in the wilderness, a place of desolation and abandonment; yet paradoxically, it's potentially a time of great spiritual growth, if we dare to withdraw, to enter deeply into a time of self-examination and keep company with Jesus. We are invited to dwell, abide, to wait, to 'tarry', to slow down in our journey. We can learn much from the Celtic saints who lived the monastic life for whom these practices were embedded in their 'Rule of Life'.

Earlier this year, I chose Jeremiah 6:16 as a guiding verse: "Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'" It seems to me that Lent is indeed a good time to pause at the crossroads and look to those ancient paths and perhaps heed the prophet's words to take them?

One of the distinctive characteristics of both these saints, Dewi and Chad, is that they were encouragers of others in their mission. As founders of monasteries, they built communities of learning; but they also lived lives of discovery and adventure, spreading the Christian message and gathering disciples as they went. They recognised the wisdom of taking time out to rest, pray and study. We owe them, and so many others, much gratitude for their legacy of Christian practice.

In our Chad Foundations programme we have sought to embed some of these principles and practices in preparation for public ministry. The Chad programme allows those taking the first steps into ministry to explore what it feels like to be part of a learning community, albeit mostly online, in the

virtual world of Moodle; yet we also take time out to pray, eat, study and enter into retreat together on our gathered days. We travel as companions together in small groups. Chad aims to be a journey of adventure and discovery, of exploring ministry and mission, where we can examine that vocational question, 'What is it Lord, that you have called me to do?'. As we each continue on our individual Lenten journeys, I wonder if that question is one that saints like Chad and Dewi might help us answer?



*Clare Whitney -
Lay Ministerial Learning and Development Officer
clare.whitney@lichfield.anglican.org
For information about the Chad Foundations
Programme see the webpage:
lichfield.anglican.org/chad-foundations.*

THE TRUTH HAS RISEN

Refusing divine partnership, the hired hands chose
deceit as their god,
self-deceived, believing they could annul the Truth.
But they were wrong,
for the Truth robed in mere flesh was full measured God,
exposing imposters;
so the Good Light Shepherd came, dwelt with the outcasts,
not in dark hedged chaos,
with it's add-on laws of the petty smoking brain.

And the sent Truth was real, eternally rich;
was first and last,
though corporate robbers shook, feared and plotted,
casting it outside
in the dark of their nailed hearts' stretching hatred,
crying Cain's long curse,
but the pearl of finest wealth stretched out in welcome,
Love's wisdom held sway;
and the boulder closed not the rejoicing Truth.

January, 2024.

Mark Davis.

BONUS BALL

Congratulations to the January winners of the weekly Lotto Bonus Ball draw who have each received £29. The winners were:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ball Number</u>	<u>Winner</u>
6Jan	41	George Gill
13Jan	7	Ann Harding
20Jan	42	Olive Morris
27Jan	16	Rev'd David Hart RIP

As the new Bonus Ball year starts in March may I remind members that payment for your Bonus Ball number(s) for either 12 months (£52), 6 months (£26) to the end of August or just 3 months to the end of May are due at the beginning of March.

Ball 49 will become available from the beginning of March. If you would like to take on this number please let me know.

Paul Crosby
658606



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A message from the Flower Arranging Team

You may think it strange to be talking about flowers during Lent which, along with Advent, is a time when we have no floral displays in church but then Lent is a time for reflection.

Why do we have flowers in church?

Flowers have been placed in churches for hundreds of years to glorify God and assist in our worship of him; they bring the beauty of nature into our church and remind us of God's beautiful world; they bring pleasure, joy and comfort to the congregation and also to those who visit our churches and look upon them as places of peace and sanctuary.

Our small band of arrangers here at St.Oswald's gain much enjoyment from working together to beautify our church for all and we are fortunate in being granted a healthy sum by the PCC towards our expenses. However, as we are sure you'll be aware, the cost of florists flowers has spiralled in recent years such that we find ourselves contributing more and more ourselves and from our own gardens in an effort to keep within budget.



Our personal contributions give us as much pleasure as the arranging itself and so it occurs to us that such gifts may bring you pleasure too. So perhaps, during Lent, when we experience an absence of flowers in church, we are given time to reflect and consider what flowers in church mean to us and whether we can all help in some way.



Perhaps you could offer greenery and surplus flowers from your own gardens (*you might even consider planting an area for cut flowers*) or you might prefer to make a donation towards an arrangement in memory of a departed loved one or in celebration of a special event and anniversary.

To make a donation of any sort please speak to any member of the team - Chris, Glenda, Jane, Jill, Judi or Olive or telephone 01691 653315 (Glenda) or 01691 653316 (Chris).

All your contributions however modest will be most gratefully received and put to good use.

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THE STORM COCK SINGS IN MARCH

March is a great month to search for and listen to mistle thrushes. They start to breed in February and by March can be heard proclaiming from the tops of tall trees. Unlike other thrushes such as song thrush or blackbird, mistle thrushes are known for singing during stormy weather, hence the name stormcock. They are also called Throstles, an old word for thrush. By perching high to sing, they amplify their already loud song which can be heard up to 2km away. Compared to other thrushes the mistle thrushes song is more monotonous and piercing but still a joyful sound to hear and a herald of spring. You can identify the three thrushes by their song and once you have learned the difference they are quite easy to separate. Have a listen on the RSPB website as a starting point.

Mistle thrushes favour parkland conditions with big trees and grassland, where they feed on a wide variety of invertebrates. Churchyards and cemeteries can be perfect for them having mature soils full of invertebrates, few or no pesticides and mature trees for perching and nesting. Many burial grounds contain evergreen trees which were planted during the nineteenth century, these are now mature and offer excellent habitat for thrushes as well as other birds and animals.



Mistle thrushes are currently in decline in the UK and churchyards and cemeteries may be important strongholds for them. We would love to know how many churchyards have mistle thrushes breeding in them, and if you hear one singing, this will be a male who is proclaiming his territory so a good indicator of breeding. Please let Caring for God's Acre know by making a record on iNaturalist, you can do this by recording the song or taking a photo of the bird. Alternatively you can email wildlife@cfga.org.uk.

All the best,

Harriet

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk,

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

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The new term has begun, and bookings have been coming in from each of the schools I serve.

Diary of a Disciple workshops have started. This primary school workshop from Scripture Union looks at the life of Jesus through the gospel of Luke. During the workshop the children take part in a variety of activities including quizzes, art, reading and drama, discovering who Jesus is, and the impact he had on the lives of those he encountered. Each child who takes part in the workshop receives a mini copy of the Diary of a Disciple book to take home. Please pray for these workshops as they take place over this term.



Moreton Hall faith group has also begun this term. Five young people attended the first session, and are keen to study the bible together and pray for one another. The girls were excited about the opportunity to be part of the group, and I am looking forward to helping them develop their faith.

What else is happening in February?

Collective worship assemblies continue. Themes include fairness, justice, courage, forgiveness and friendship.

I will be leading a service at Christchurch Oswestry. It is always a privilege to visit our supporting churches and share more of what God is up to within the SCWP. If you would like me to visit your church to share what God is up to in our local schools please contact me by email janew.scwp@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support
Many Blessings

Jane Webber

Things to Pray For

- Diary of a Disciple workshops
- For the new Christian Union at Moreton Hall.
- For secondary pupils making decisions about further education and apprenticeships. pray especially for those who are struggling with which course to chose.



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Love and serve one another

[SOLUTION ON PAGE 42]

On Maundy Thursday we recall the final command that Jesus gave to His disciples before His death. After the Last Supper, He rose and washed His disciples' feet. This was astonishing for a 'teacher' to do, but He had a firm purpose in mind: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The 'washing of the feet' ceremony was an important part of the medieval church's liturgy, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

Maundy	I H O D T H U R S D A Y J I	As
Thursday	J D T E A C H E R N N D E I	Loved
Final	E M O A P T L A A G O V I M	you
Command	R N R M E P A S T N T L N R	Must
Jesus	L A V E I D E M Y I H S W L	One
Disciples	O D E C P N R S T H E H A T	Another
Death	V F S N O P A S I S R T S L	Service
Last	E I O E O F U T L I I N H T	Domination
Supper	D N P I O M E S I N Y D E Y	Latin
Washed	O A R D C E R E M O N Y D E	Ceremony
Feet	C L U E F M V S U T N N S E	Medieval
Astonishing	E P P B T C I S H S U S E J	Humility
Purpose	L C C O M M A N D A L A H C	Obedience
Teacher	E C I V R E S S M U N C R M	

TANAT TO PERRY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

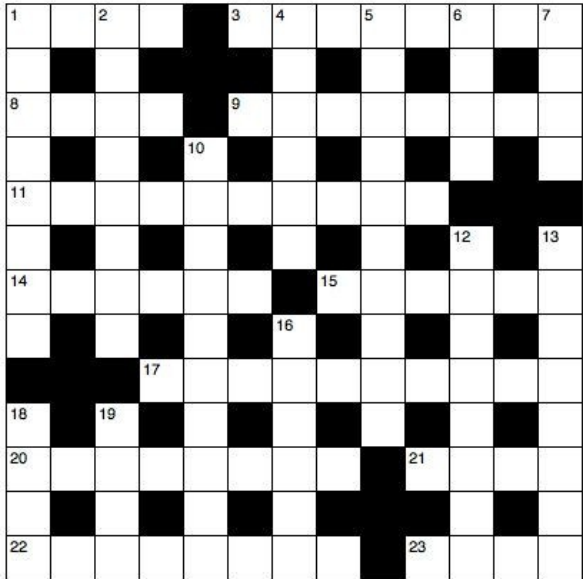
**A meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm
at Morda Social Club, Weston Road, Morda, SY10 9NS,
to present the results of our work in previous years, and consider
plans for 2024. All welcome!!!**

For more information, please see the Tanat to Perry pages on the Community Wildlife Groups website <https://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/tanat-to-perry-wildlife-group/>

If you want to help, please email me: leo@leosmith.org.uk

Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)



Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)

16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39)

(3,3)

18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)

19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah)

(4)

Sudoku

			5	6	7	1		4
				9	1	2		
1			4			5	8	6
	3				6			9
4	5						6	1
6			9				5	
8	2	3			9			5
		4	6	3				
9		5	2	8	4			

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Easy

				9		5		4
	1	2		8		6		
								9
8		6			2		4	
	4		3			7		8
5								
		8		7		3	2	
6		3		5				

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Medium

PUZ?LES

**Solutions
on page 42**

REGISTERS



We welcome in HOLY BAPTISM

S Oswald's

February 11

Harper-Juliette Langford

As God has lent them to us, so we say farewell and give back in HOLY DYING:

S Oswald's

January 25

Karen Carroll, aged 78

January 30

Thomas Raymond Morris, aged 79

February 6

Hazel Patricia Yates, aged 62

February 13

John Richard William Evans, aged 80

February 20

June Allen, aged 86



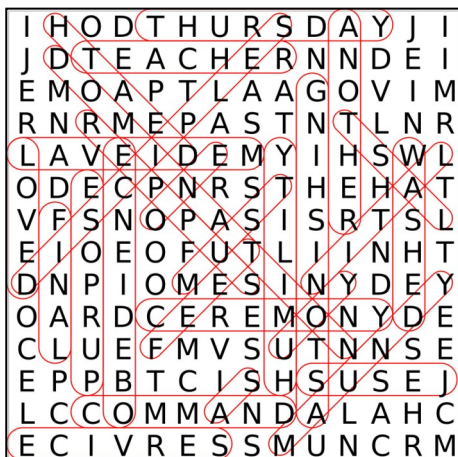
We are a group of volunteers running advice sessions in Oswestry Library, to assist the general public with Family & Local History. Our sessions are free and include access to Ancestry.com, Parish Records, Local Maps, Photographs and copies of the Advertiser 1849 to date. Family & Local Historians available: Monday 10:00-12:00 Friday 13:30-16:00

No appointments necessary

CONTACTS - ST OSWALD'S

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	Secretary: Ms Jan Snowball,	671152
		07732712484
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CHURCH FLOWERS	Glenda	653315
	Chris.	653316
ELECTORAL ROLL	Mrs Maureen Crosby	658606
HOME COMMUNION	Revd Keith Musson	656212
LADIES GROUP	Miss June Williams	652544
LEGACY ADVISOR	Mr Michael Limbrey	654081
MOTHERS' UNION	Mrs Pam Musson	656212
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Ms Carron Boulton	652861
PARISH CENTRE		
Chairman	Mr Alan Neale	661613
Booking Secretary	Ms Carron Boulton	652861
	Email: stoswald.office@gmail.com	
PARISH NEWS: Editor	Mrs Diane Dawson Email dianedawson15@gmail.com	658437
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SACRISTAN	Mr Michael Jones	653598
UNDER 5's PLAYGROUP	Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley	07809 414747
	Email: stoswald.minister@gmail.com	
WEBSITE:	www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk	
WEBSITE SPIDER	Anne Pilsbury, email: annepilsbury@gmail.com	

Oswestry Parish Church exists to propagate and nurture the love of God through the teachings of Jesus Christ thereby serving the needs of the whole community and enriching everybody's lives, through worship and prayer.



Easy

3	8	2	5	6	7	1	9	4
5	4	6	8	9	1	2	3	7
1	9	7	4	2	3	5	8	6
2	3	8	1	5	6	4	7	9
4	5	9	3	7	2	8	6	1
6	7	1	9	4	8	3	5	2
8	2	3	7	1	9	6	4	5
7	1	4	6	3	5	9	2	8
9	6	5	2	8	4	7	1	3

Medium

3	6	7	2	9	1	5	8	4
9	1	2	5	8	4	6	3	7
4	8	5	6	3	7	2	1	9
8	5	6	7	1	2	9	4	3
7	3	9	8	4	5	1	6	2
2	4	1	3	6	9	7	5	8
5	7	4	1	2	3	8	9	6
1	9	8	4	7	6	3	2	5
6	2	3	9	5	8	4	7	1

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR NEXT MONTH

Material required in the Office

SUNDAY, 17 MARCH

Make-up day for working party,
and publication:

Tuesday, 26 March

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